

NWA booker gets the hook

There has been another change in the direction and leadership of the National Wrestling Alliance.

The NWA, plagued by anemic attendance, fired booker (matchmaker) Ole Anderson last Tuesday. While most in the industry believe his replacement will be Dusty Rhodes — as conjectured here two weeks ago — that has not been confirmed by the company. Rhodes, who booked the NWA from 1984-88, gave notice that he was leaving the World Wrestling Federation several weeks back. That news — coming at the same time as word that Anderson's days as booker were numbered — led to speculation Rhodes was returning to the NWA.



**GRUNT
AND
GRIN**

BY DAVE MELTZER
FOR THE NATIONAL

When Anderson took over as booker in May, he was given six months to get the crowds back. But the attendance only worsened under his direction. This marks the seventh booking change since TBS purchased the NWA two years ago.

Rhodes will remain with the WWF full time through Dec. 30, and return for one last match on the Royal Rumble pay-per-view show Jan. 19.

For now, the NWA will be booked by a four-man committee of announcers Jim Ross and Tony Schiavone, former wrestler Kevin Sullivan and six-time NWA champion Ric Flair. Sources within the NWA have mentioned Terry Funk, world champion of the Tennessee-based United States Wrestling Association, as another possible replacement.

The NWA would prefer that its booker not be an active wrestler because of the obvious conflict of interest. But it is well known that Rhodes, 45, craves a big retirement-tour sendoff.

ETC: Kevin Von Erich's Dallas-based World Class Championship Wrestling promotion folded, with its last show on Nov. 23. . . . Joe Pedicino, an Atlanta-based former TV wrestling host, purchased the USWA, the third largest promotion in the country, from Jerry Jarrett for a price believed to be between \$1 and \$2 million. Pedicino plans to change the promotion's name to Global Wrestling Federation and promote nationally starting this spring. . . . Many people were confused with the mention in last week's column that Mr. Perfect (Curt Hennig) had regained the WWF Intercontinental title from Kerry Von Erich on Nov. 19 in Rochester, N.Y. The confusion has arisen because Von Erich is still being announced as champion. The WWF has had a longstanding practice of not recognizing or acknowledging title changes until they air on television. The Perfect-Von Erich match was taped for a Dec. 15 air date. Until that point, Von Erich will be recognized as champion. Of course, since Nov. 19 Von Erich has come to the ring with the title belt, been announced as champion, and gone on to pin Perfect almost every night in what have been billed as title matches. But after Dec. 15, Perfect will be the champion regardless of his losses during the interim period. Now, isn't that less confusing?

The Grunt and Grin column appears every Tuesday.

Chad
12/4/90

AWA is
folding
Jan. 7
I
haven't had
a
card in
2
months!